(d)whether a single radio can receive the broadcast of F.M. and traditional transmitter;and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a)and(b). Twenty Six local radio stations are at present in operation in the country. Out of these, 21 radio stations are based on Frequency Modulation (FM) Technology and remaining 5 radio stations on Amplitude Modulation(AM) Technology.

(c) Yes, Sir.A Frequency Modulation System necessary for FM transmission.

(d) A Single radio receiving set with FM/ AM bands is capable of receiving transmission from both FM and traditional Transmitters.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Role of Public Distribution System.

6585. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER \be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the PRIME MINISTER discussed the role of public Distribution System with the State Minister for Civil Supplies and public Distribution at his recent meeting held by him with them during the last month;

(b) If so, the details of deliberations; and

(c) The steps being taken to streamline the public Distribution System as a mechanism for helping the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It was generally agreed to reorient the focus of the Public Distribution System (PDS)to concentration areas inhabited by larger number of the poor like areas under Integrated Tribal Development Projects; Drought prone Area programme; Desert Development programme and Tribal Majority States. The Strategy would be to ensure an effective reach of PDS commodities to consumers in these areas. through the increase of Fair Price shop outlets, coverage of population by ration cards and strengthening of other infrastructure.

States were also requested to improve reach to the vulnerable population living in urban unorganised housing.

Meeting of Advisory Council on PDS

6586. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether a meeting of Advisory Council on the Public Distribution System was held in August,1991;and

(b) if so,the decisions taken therein and the stage of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It was generally agreed to reorient the focus of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to concentrate on areas in habited by larger numbers of poor, like areas under Integrated Tribal Development Projects; Draught Prone Areas Programmers;Desert Development Programme and Tribal Majority States. The Strategy would be to ensure an effective reach of PDS commodities to consumers in these areas, through the increase Fair Price Shop outlets, coverage of population by ration

cards and strengthening of other infrastructure.

States were also requested to improve reach to the vulnerable population living in urban unorganised housing.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory

6587. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory has been lying closed for the last few years and if so, the reasons there for;

(b) whether it has been proposed to reopen this industry and if so, the time by which it is likely to be reopened;

(c)whether private entrepreneurs will be encouraged and if so, the time by which approval will be accorded;and

(d) management of this Factory is getting the work done by the workers for the last three years despite the closure of this industry and they are being marked present and if so, whether they are being marked present and if so,whether these workers have been paid their salary during these three years and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J.KURIEN): (a)The Cement factory at Sawai Modhopur lying closed since 1.7.1988,as it became a sick unit incurring huge losses.

(b) to (d). The proposal regarding rehabilitation/ revival of the factory includes,among other things, payment of arrears of salaries to the workers. The issue of rehabilitation/revival of the unit is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

[*English*]

Cable TV Programmes in Kerala

6588. SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)whether Cable TV programmes are available in Kerala: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The Government is aware of the existence of Cable TV networks operating in various parts of the country including Kerala.As the private agencies do not require the permission of the Government to set-up Cable TV Networks within private premises, the details of such networks are not available with Government.

Commissioning of H.P.C.Plant

6589. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Caustic and Chlorine plant in the Cachar Paper Project of H.P.C (Hidustan Paper Corp.) was due to be commissioned sometime back and the same is being delayed; and

(b) whether the H.P.C has set a new date for commissioning of the above plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K.THUNGON):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Caustic Chlorine Plant is likely to be